GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:441
ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017
Radio Community Services
Meinya Dr. Thokchom

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of community radio stations in the country;
(b) whether there is any proposal to expand it further; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
(SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 441 FOR REPLY ON 05.04.2017.

(a) At present, 206 Community Radio Stations are operational in the country.

(b) & (c) Grant of permissions to set up Community Radio Stations is a continuous process. Permission to set up Community Radio Station is granted under the Policy Guidelines for setting up of Community Radio Stations in India, issued in the year 2006 and amended in 2017. These guidelines are available at Ministry''s website www.mib.nic.in. Eligible organizations can apply for permission to set up CRS at any time in any part of the country.
Government has taken various steps towards the expansion of the Community Radio sector. Workshops are organized by the Ministry to familiarise people about the Community Radio policy and create awareness amongst aspiring applicants about issues relating to installation, operation & maintenance of Community Radios. Besides this, six National and four Regional Sammelans have been organised for Community Radio operators, Government Ministries/ Departments, UN organisations and other stakeholders to facilitate exchange of ideas and experiences. The grant of permission process has been simplified. Ministry also provides financial support to new as well as existing Community Radio stations for purchase of equipment and for content creation. The financial grant for equipment has been increased from 50% to 75% of the total cost (to 90% in North Eastern region) with a ceiling of Rs. 7.5 lakh. The process for release of grants has also been simplified. Further, Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi has also designed and started a training programme for Community Radio functionaries and those desirous of setting up a Community Radio Station.